AP20RacdPCT/FTO 13 APR 2006

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached on enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EL 995016935 US, on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: MS PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 223 3-1450.

Dated: April 13, 2006

Signature: XIMOU

Docket No.: 19036/41822

(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Kaoru Nomichi et al.

Application No.: National Phase of

PCT/JP2004/015548

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: Gas Seal Structure

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

## FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.